

*Approved July 1963***MEMORANDUM FOR CIA MEMBER USIB****SUBJECT: Background for 17 July USIB consideration of  
Coordination Staff Report on the NIS Program**

1. The report makes recommendations with respect to NIS concepts and management, and is submitted as completing the survey of the NIS proposed by your 10 November 1962 memorandum to the Board. In doing so, I note, it is evident that the Staff's assessment of the NIS improved as the survey progressed and in the end re-affirmed the basic mission and value of the NIS, and that improvements are recognized as already being achieved under existing management of the Program which the Staff nevertheless would significantly change.

2. The Assistant for Coordination in June asked me to comment on the draft version of substantially the present report Attachment. Having previously stated my opposition to any material changes in existing management of the Program, in my reply I said I had no major objections except to para 9 of the Attachment, which proposes a full-time Chairman of the NIS Committee and related changes in the make-up and functioning of the Committee.

3. The proposed Concepts can be concurred in. They generally summarize concepts which in practice the Program has been following, and at my direction notably in the planning for FY64, to the fullest extent practicable in the light of allocated production effort and the time required for transition in a complex program like the NIS. I would prefer, however, for the Board action to be endorsement of the Concepts in principle, leaving to the NIS Committee the details of terminology and treatment in their promulgation.

4. The para 9 proposals relative to the NIS Committee and the Chairmanship are closely related to, and must be considered in conjunction with, the preceding paras 7 and 8. Taken together they transfer to USIB responsibilities for the management of the NIS which from the 1948 beginning have been assigned to CIA by the NSC-approved NIS Standard Instructions.

5. For practical purposes these functions have been a supervised responsibility of OBI/CIA and the NIS Committee in a close working relationship. The Chairman of the Committee  reports annually or more often to USIB on broad aspects of the Program;

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this is a provision of the Committee's status as a USIB committee, which USIB in July 1962 re-affirmed in non-concurring with Coordination Staff recommendation for disestablishment of this status. Some of the Coordination Staff may feel that more direct USIB-level management might give other agencies a stronger voice vis-a-vis CIA; some of the Staff have said that their proposal would engender more USIB direct interest in and support of the NIS. I think the record shows that the CIA-chaired Committee has consistently sought the greatest good for the greatest number. I would welcome USIB stimulation of NIS effort outside CIA, but I cannot believe that the Board wishes to become closely involved in NIS operational matters, or as a practical matter is in position to do so beyond the point of the general policy surveillance now provided for.

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